

**Recreation Areas Managed by:**  
U.S. Forest Service  
McKenzie River Ranger District  
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413

**Public Information:**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Portland District  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946  
503-808-5155  
<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil>



2003



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Portland District

# Cougar Lake



Cougar Lake project, on the South Fork of the McKenzie River about 42 miles east of Eugene, Oregon, is one of 13 multi-purpose water projects operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Willamette Valley. Each project contributes to an overall water resource plan designed to preserve the quality of the valley’s environment. The Cougar Lake project provides flood control, irrigation, power generation, improved downstream navigation and water-based recreation.

Cougar Dam is a rockfill structure with a gated concrete spillway and outlet works for regulating lake levels. The dam was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$54.2 million. Since then it has prevented about \$406 million in potential damages from flooding. During flood season, potentially disastrous flooding is controlled by storing water in the lake and releasing it gradually after flood conditions have passed. When rivers are at low levels during the summer and fall months, stored water released from the lake adds to the natural flow and helps keep the rivers clean, cool and fresh.

Visitor viewpoints built by the Corps at both sides of the dam offer spectacular views of the valley downstream and the vistas upstream around the lake. Most of the recreation facilities, managed by the U.S. Forest Service, are located within the mountainous Willamette National Forest. Overnight camping is available at all Forest Service campgrounds.

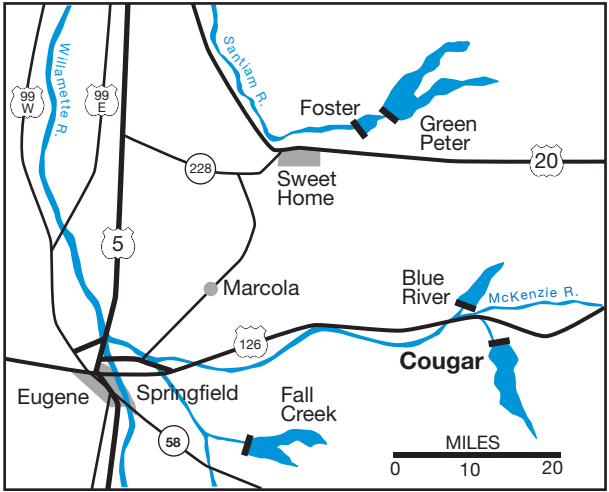
The scenic 1,280-acre lake with its many miles of forested shoreline provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation. The lake has a good reputation for trout fishing and has several boat launching locations.

The Corps of Engineers built McKenzie Hatchery near Leaburg on the McKenzie River as mitigation for loss of salmon and steelhead spawning grounds caused by construction of Cougar and Blue River dams. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife maintains and operates the fish facilities.



## PROJECT DATA

	Measure	Metric
<b>Dam</b>		
Length	1,600 ft.	487.68 m
Height	452 ft.	137 m
Total kilowatt capacity	25,000 kw	
<b>Lake</b>		
Length	6 mi.	9.65 km
Area when full	1,280 ac.	518.14 ha



# Cougar Lake

	RESTROOMS	POTABLE WATER	PICNICKING	SWIMMING BEACH	BOAT RAMP	MARINA	CAMP SITES	ELECTRICITY	RV CAMP / UTILITIES	RV CAMP WO / UTILITIES	FEES CHARGED	TRAILS
DELTA CAMPGROUND												
ECHO PARK (day use)												
SLIDE CREEK CAMPGROUND												
SUNNYSIDE												
FRENCH PETE CAMPGROUND												
COUGAR CROSSING												

## TO ENJOY A SAFE OUTING - OBSERVE THESE SAFETY TIPS

### UNDERWATER HAZARDS

Submerged stumps, logs and rocks are present in the lake. Be especially watchful for obstructions near the shoreline.

### SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS

Dangerous waves can build up suddenly. Stay out of open waters when winds become threatening.

### SEAPLANE INSTRUCTION

Please exercise caution - heavy boat traffic may be encountered. Refer to the *Seaplane Operations at Corps Lakes* brochure for specific regulations.

### FIRE PREVENTION

The fire potential is generally high during the summer season. Help prevent forest fires by putting out camp fires and disposing of all refuse in trash cans.

### SAFETY TIPS

#### When Boating...

Observe the posted speeds and restricted areas.

#### When Water Skiing...

Have two people in the tow boat, one to drive and one to watch the skier. Avoid skiing near swimmers or fishermen. ALWAYS wear a life jacket (PFD) when water skiing.

#### When Fishing...

Stay clear of boat channels, skiing and swimming areas. While trolling, watch the water ahead for boats, swimmers or underwater obstacles.

#### When Swimming...

Never swim alone.  
Stay away from dock and ski areas.  
Know your area.

Federal rules and regulations concerning the use of this area are set forth in Title 36, Chapters II and III of the Code of Federal Regulations and are on display in the areas of this project most frequently used by the public.

